

Research Question: What is the long-term economic impact of hosting the Olympics?

Abstract: With the Olympics coming to Los Angeles in 2028, I wanted to take a deeper look at past trends in data to determine if claims made by policy makers and committees are accurate. Most discussions around whether or not to host an event of this scale revolve around the economic impact in which claims are made that these events will have a net positive long-term impact. By looking at past trends I will be able to discover the true lasting impacts of these events and hopefully be able to provide insight on what might occur within the United States after these events finish.

Data: This data is highly tractable because most of this data is publicly available.

I would need to look at the host city or county's macroeconomic indicators such as GDP growth, employment rate, and inflation. These should be available from government agency websites such as the US Bureau of labor statistics or World Bank.

I also need to look at tourism, infrastructure costs, real estate value, and long-term debt. These can be pulled from various websites. Most of this data is public or can be scraped from available documents.

Strategy: To be able to conduct my analysis I would need to use the difference-in-differences statistical method. This approach will allow me to compare the economic impacts of the host city to a non-host city which will be a control group. This method allows me to compare these two cities while still accounting for overall global economic trends. I will strive to look at the economic indicators before and after the event to truly understand the long-term economic environment of the city.

Stakeholders: This study covers a broad range of stakeholders. City officials and policy makers are the first stakeholders that come to mind. These people are the ones making the decision to host the event. No matter the findings of this study, they would be very interested in it because it would help them determine how impactful these events are. Overall taxpayers would also be a stakeholder because they want to know if the money they are paying is going to useful resources. Additionally, business owners in the area would be heavily invested in this study because they want to know how to prepare in the correct manner for this event.

Ethical Concerns: My goal with this analysis is to gain a better understanding if government official's promises are actually holding true. These officials claim that these events will greatly improve their city's economy, but I want to look at long term data to better see the full picture and hopefully discuss alternative courses of action.

Originality: There are a lot of studies on this type of question but to differentiate I want to focus on the bigger picture. Most studies look at only one city. However, I want to look at overall trends to understand what is actually occurring. I also want to look at the cities that end up losing the bidding process to see what effects they have. While this is a popular question my approach can make this unique and potential create new ideas for how governments should approach this situation.